

Green Sense 04-14-2013

Earth Day Everyday

Will this year be the year you connect to the environment? Earth Day is April 22nd, and a great way to celebrate is to decide what simple steps you want to take every day to preserve the environmental services provided by our home planet.

First, to help you get started, the Environmental Protection Agency's Pick Five website www.epa.gov/pick5/, provides a number of options. By choosing five or more of the ideas on the webpage, and sharing your own, you are connecting with thousands of others who are doing the same! You can make your actions count today and everyday.

PICK 5 provides actions for preserving our water resources and electricity, commuting without polluting, reusing and recycling, and more. Choose at least 5 actions you'll commit to, from learning about our local watersheds and volunteering, to planting trees, now is a great time to start any of these actions. To bring it local, pick some of our local events:

To learn firsthand about options for your own home, on **April 23**rd Reading's own Climate Actioneer, Ray Porter, will be giving a presentation at the Reading Public Library. **The Energy Smart Home: Key Improvements to Make Now**. Discover what is possible for your home while reducing your bills & carbon footprint. Meteorologist Ray Porter will showcase home energy upgrades from his historic Reading home, including the latest technology in insulation, appliances, heating & air conditioning.

The big event here in Reading is on April 27th! To make Earth Day Everyday plan to attend **Reading's own Earth Day event on April 27**th (10 AM to 2 PM) at the Mattera Cabin, 1481 Main Street at the north end of Reading. Local organizations and town departments will offer displays to help you plan your simple steps for the planet, and nature walks and crafts for kids will round out the celebration.

Other local events:

The Mystic River Watershed, serving the west side of Reading (the Aberjona River), Earth Day Cleanup is on Saturday Apr 20, 2013 9am – 1pm starting at the Mystic River Reservation at Assembly Row, 177 Middlesex Ave., Somerville. Look for map and details at mysticriver.org/watershed-clean-ups.

You can also find out more about the Mystic River Watershed Association's low-impact / green infrastructure projects and discover ways volunteers are involved in water-quality monitoring, river herring counts and more April 24, 7pm – 8:30 pm at the Winchester public library, Winchester. Click on April 24th at the website http://mysticriver.org/myrwa-calendar-of-events/.

The Saugus River Watershed, serving the southeast part of Reading, Earth Day Park Serve Day is Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Look for details at www.saugusriver.org/events.htm.

The Ipswich River Watershed, serving the northern part of Reading has two events: A "Garden Clean Up" at their Riverbend headquarters, Thursday, April 18, 8:00am – 10:30am, 143 County Road, Ipswich; and a Greenscapes 101 class in Andover on Tuesday, April 23, 7:00pm – 8:30pm at Memorial Hall Library, 2 N Main St, Andover. The Ipswich River Watershed Association will also be at Reading's Earth Day event on April 27th.

Party for the Planet Sunday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., at the Franklin Park Zoo, promises a fun and engaging day to raise awareness for the planet and all it has to offer. Zoo New England festivities will include opportunities to meet the zookeepers, plus animal enrichment activities, scavenger hunts, entertainment, performances by the Chorallaries of MIT and the Felix Brown Band, eco-friendly exhibitors and more. Learn how you can contribute to a healthy planet and preserve the Earth. See www.zoonewengland.org/FPZevents for details.

The New England Aquarium also offers an event on Sunday, April 21, Blue Discoveries Family Day. Earth is a "blue planet", and the Aquarium offers art, science and storytelling to help you and your family to learn more. With support from the Lowell Institute, some Family Days are free and open to the public. Check

http://www.neaq.org/education_and_activities/programs_and_classes/family_programs/little_fis hes_program/blue_discoveries.php.

Reading's own Climate Committee hopes to see you at the Library on April 23 and the Mattera Cabin on April 27. Make Earth Day Everyday!

A column by members of Reading's Climate Committee Gina Snyder, Michele Benson and Stephanie Anderberg